



UNITED COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Newark's Anti-Poverty Agency

A Fact Sheet

1965-66

**". . . the central problem today is to
protect and restore man's satisfaction
in belonging to a community where he
can find security and significance."**

**President Lyndon B. Johnson,
"State of the Union Message", 1965**

Facts About Newark's United Community Corporation

AREA SERVED:

City of Newark—24 square miles.

POPULATION:

405,000.

PURPOSE:

To design, develop and coordinate a broad-based community program aimed at alleviating and eliminating the causes of poverty.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

The major share of money for program development and implementation is provided by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity. A smaller—10 percent local contribution, either in cash or in kind—is required to activate the Federal grant. (In 1965 over \$4,000,000 was granted to Newark by the Federal government for Community Action Programs, such as Operation Head Start, Full Year Pre-School and Blazer Community Work Training Program.)

ORIGIN:

The UCC was formed in 1964 by a group of community leaders and city officials because of a growing concern over Newark's unemployment rate and other factors highlighted by the South Side Project. The agency was incorporated in the fall of 1964 in an effort to cope with these urban problems, and received its first Federal grant of \$184,000 in January of 1965.

TYPE:

The United Community Corporation is one of many Community Action Program agencies in New Jersey and around the country conducting programs under Title II of the Economic Opportunity Act.

It is a private non-profit agency with a governing board of trustees elected by the members at an annual meeting in May.

Membership is open to anyone 15 years of age or older who either resides, works in or performs a service to Newark. (As of January 1, 1966, the membership numbered over 7,000.)

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STAFF:

Under the overall supervision of an executive director, some 65 salaried employees, ranging from a clerical and secretarial staff to specialists in community organization, work training, education, information and personnel.

UCC Approach

The UCC interprets its role as four-fold:

- 1) Encourage, develop, and guide specific programs conducted with funds from the Office of Economic Opportunity,
- 2) Stimulate movement toward the development of corporate entities of the poor to sponsor activities that would be of direct benefit to them,
- 3) Involve the beneficiaries of both established and projected services in the planning, administration, policy making, and as employees, and,
- 4) Organize the community in order that it may help itself through greater participation in civic affairs and social action.

To this end, the UCC has set about its task of organizing residents of the city through unique Area Boards, which, for purposes of comparison, are similar to the neighborhood or community councils. Each of Newark's nine boards is to elect officers and trustees, study and discuss local, as well as city-wide, issues and problems, recommend possible solutions, and be represented in the planning, development and administration, and as employees in any community action program.

In addition, each area Board is to have its own staff and rented quarters. At year's end 1965, three boards were well established and five were in various stages of development. All had drafted and adopted constitutions and had working committees, and each had staff.

The principle of maximum feasible participation of those being served became a reality early in the development of Newark's program. Area Board members were involved in the planning, development and as employees in a host of programs conducted by both established and newly created agencies.

UCC Programs

OPERATION HEAD START:

A summer pre-school conducted by the Newark Board of Education for some 2,800 four-year-olds. Highly diversified staff of teachers, teacher-aides, social workers, physicians, dentists, nurses and psychologists numbered 610. **Cost of Program: \$602,939 Federal Share: \$542,639.**

PAL NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK RECREATIONAL:

Conducted by the Newark Police Department through its Police Athletic League for 15,000 youth, mainly from the Central Ward of the city, some spending 10 weeks vacationing and training at summer camp. Over 300 residents participated as staff. **Cost of Program: \$177,330 Federal Share: \$159,597.**

HIGH SCHOOL HEAD START:

A six-week, educational-cultural enrichment for 100-plus Newark youngsters entering high school in September 1965. Conducted at Seton Hall University by a staff of 10 with 19 pre-service teachers, the session provided a unique blend of basic school study, extra-curricular activities and new horizons in culture. **Cost of Program: \$49,500 Federal Share: \$42,600.**

REMEDIAL READING:

A program for preparing disadvantaged children for the language experience. Co-sponsored by Queen of Angels Church and Seton Hall University, this program helped 177 children to develop improved reading standards. **Cost of Program: \$30,000 Federal Share: \$27,000.**

FULL YEAR PRE-SCHOOL:

Newark was the first major city in the country to establish this community-based service, which in 1965 provided classroom experience for some 1800 four-year-olds (15-hours per week), 132 leaders' aides, and 132 leaders-in-training, many of whom reside in or near areas in which they work. Some 67 classes are held in 44 centers in churches and community centers. Over 3000 youngsters are scheduled to take part in the program, and go on to Summer Head Start before entering kindergarten in September 1966. **Cost of Program: \$2,372,000 Federal Share: \$2,142,000.**

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BLAZER COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT TRAINING:

Another community oriented program, developed, implemented and administered by "grass roots" board and staff to provide work experience for some 200 Newark residents on public assistance, removing their names from the welfare rolls. **Cost of Program: \$375,000** **Federal Share: \$337,500.**

LEGAL SERVICES:

A project designed to provide lawyers and legal assistance for the poor. Five neighborhood law centers in Newark will be staffed by 16 attorneys and a professional staff of 19, including 10 law students, who will serve as investigators. **Cost of Program: \$310,299** **Federal Share: \$279,269.**

MEDICARE ALERT:

A four-month program under the City's Senior Citizens Commission to acquaint the elderly with available Medicare benefits. A part-time staff of 40 older Newarkers aided by volunteers from many social agencies will set up meetings, distribute materials, and escort prospective applicants to the Social Security Office, which administers Medicare. **Cost of Program: \$24,000** **Federal Share: \$20,700.**

CAREER ORIENTED PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT (COPE):

A Neighborhood Youth Corps project to mobilize the social agencies in Newark to open doors of occupational and professional opportunities. The project, under the supervision of United Community Fund and Council of Essex and West Hudson, and the Jewish Vocational Service of Essex County, will provide work training experience in social agencies, remedial education, job placement, counseling, and assistance to high school dropouts and possible dropouts. **Cost of Program: \$1,077,000** **Federal Share: \$882,000.**

PROJECT ENABLE:

Project ENABLE, (Education Neighborhood Action for a Better Living Environment), run jointly by the Family Service Bureau of Newark and the Urban League of Essex County, is part of a national program to demonstrate that disadvantaged families can improve their conditions through educational approaches to their problems. The project centers on parent discussion groups on child-rearing, community organization, and the family. **Cost of program: \$71,000.** **Federal Share: \$62,000.**

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Executive Director

*Partial Listing—Area Board members and City officials to be designated.

**On Leave of Absence

Other Anti-Poverty Projects in Newark

Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) . . . three projects in Newark, funded under the Economic Opportunity Act (Title IB), run by the Office of the Mayor, Newark Housing Authority, and the Board of Education . . . offers young men and women, age 16-21, training in useful occupational skills . . . for school dropouts, and those still in school.

Job Corps . . . funded by OEO (Title IA), this program offers youth, age 16-21, education, vocational training, and work experience in conservation and training centers or camps away from home . . . one training site located at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey . . . Newark females attend center at St. Petersburg, Florida.

On-The-Job-Training (OJT) . . . funded by the Department of Labor, these projects offer on-the-job training usually for persons 18 years and older who are unemployed or underemployed . . . Local projects include the Business Industrial Coordinating Committee (BICC) and AFL-CIO Teamsters Local No. 97.

Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA) . . . volunteers from all parts of the United States are in Newark serving a one-year domestic Peace Corps tour . . . they are assigned to many social agencies and live and work among the poor . . . funded under the EOA (Title VI).

Work Experience Programs . . . administered by Newark's Welfare Department, this project provides work-training experience for breadwinners receiving welfare assistance in an attempt to remove them from welfare rolls and return them to the job market . . . funded under the EOA (Title V).

Prepared by Community Information Department

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